

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAM-01 EB-07

OC-05 CCO-00 SIL-01 LAB-04 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 /094 W

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R 131550Z JUN 75

FM AEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9149

INFO AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

SECDEF WASHDC

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

USDOCOSOUTH

7206 ABGP ATHENAI APRT GR

UNCLAS ATHENS 4396

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, GR

SUBJECT: STRIKE ENDS AT ATHENAI AIR BASE

REF: ATHENS 4344

1. THE STRIKE OF GREEK EMPLOYEES, PRIMARILY THOSE AT ATHENAI AIR BASE, WHICH BEGAN ON JUNE 12 ENDED ABOUT 1:00 P.M. ON JUNE 13 WHEN MINISTER OF EMPLOYMENT LASKARIS ANNOUNCED THREE GOG PROMISES TO A GROUP OF ABOUT 80 GREEK STRIKERS OUTSIDE THE BASE. THE MINISTER REPORTEDLY SAID: (A) THE GOG AGREES TO REEMPLOY IN GREECE THE 64 RECENTLY DISMISSED EMPLOYEES; (B) THE GOG WILL TAKE CARE OF FUTURE EMPLOYEES DISMISSED BY US FORCES BUT THIRD COUNTRY (SIC) NATIONALS WITHOUT WORK PERMITS WOULD HAVE TO BE DISMISSED FIRST; AND (C) FOLLOWING REQUEST BY THE HELLENIC OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION, HIS MINISTRY WOULD WRITE TO GERMANY (USAFE HEADQUARTERS) TO SEEK WAGE COMPENSATION FOR THOSE ON STRIKE THE PAST TWO DAYS.

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2. WITHIN HALF HOUR OF THE MINISTER'S ANNOUNCEMENT, BOTH

THE ATHENAI AIR BASE STRIKERS AND THE HUNGER STRIKE
DEMONSTRATORS HAD COMPLETELY CLEARED OUT FROM THEIR SITES
NEAR THE ENTRANCE TO THE BASE. APPARENTLY, THERE WAS NO
FORMAL UNION ACTION TO END THE STRIKE, WITH THE GOG'S
PROMISES THROUGH THE MINISTER OF EMPLOYMENT CONSIDERED
AS SUFFICIENT

3. COMMENT: WE WILL NOT KNOW UNTIL TOMORROW OR MONDAY
WHETHER ALL STRIKERS ARE RETURNING TO WORK AND EXACTLY WHAT
MINISTER OF EMPLOYMENT PROMISED THE STRIKERS. PROMISE
(A) SUGGESTS REEMPLOYMENT FOR SOME WORKERS MAY BE ELSEWHERE
IN GREECE THAN IN ATHENS. WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE SUBSTANCE
OF PROMISE (B) SINCE THE EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THE RELATIVELY
FEW THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS EMPLOYED BY THE U.S. FORCES HAVE
WORK PERMITS. PROMISE (C) WAS PRESUMABLY IN RESPONSE TO UNION
LOBBYING THROUGH THE HOA, THE LEGAL EMPLOYER AT THE BASE.
THE UNION HAS ACHIEVED THE MAJOR PURPOSE BEHIND THE STRIKE,
I.E. TO GET THE GOG TO COMMIT ITSELF PUBLICLY TO JOB SECURITY
FOR GREEK EMPLOYEES DISMISSED AS A RESULT OF SCALING DOWN
OF U.S. FORCES ACTIVITIES.
KUBISCH

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